

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017170

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ G06F3/06, G06F3/08, G06K17/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G06F3/06-3/08, G06K17/00, G06K19/00-19/08

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Jitsuyo Shinan Koho | 1922-1996 | Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho | 1994-2004 |
| Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho | 1971-2004 | Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho | 1996-2004 |

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| A | JP 2003-288564 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 10 October, 2003 (10.10.03), Full text; all drawings & EP 1331600 A2 & US 2003-0137887 A1 | 1-28 |
| A | JP 2001-306182 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 02 November, 2001 (02.11.01), Full text; all drawings & WO 2001/080171 A1 & US 2003-0109179 A1 | 1-28 |
| A | JP 2000-259783 A (Sony Corp.), 22 September, 2000 (22.09.00), Full text; all drawings & US 6493787 B1 | 1-28 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
27 January, 2005 (27.01.05)

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| A | JP 63-159460 U (Mitsubishi Electric Corp.), 19 October, 1988 (19.10.88), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-28 |
| A | JP 10-116329 A (Nihon Denki Telecom System Kabushiki Kaisha), 06 May, 1998 (06.05.98), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-28 |
| A | JP 2001-290708 A (NEC Corp.), 19 October, 2001 (19.10.01), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-28 |
| A | JP 6-195524 A (Toshiba Corp.), 15 July, 1994 (15.07.94), Par Nos. [0036] to [0041], [0067]; Figs. 14, 15, 33 (Family: none) | 1-28 |
| P,A | JP 2004-086503 A (Toshiba Corp.), 18 March, 2004 (18.03.04), Full text; all drawings & US 2004-0123059 A1 | 1-28 |

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Claims 1 and 16 are not sufficiently supported by the Description. Claims 1 and 16 contain the phrase that says "a recording medium access device for accessing a recording medium having a plurality of functions." However, what is disclosed in the meaning of PCT Article 5 is "a recording medium access device connected to a storage medium having a plurality of storage areas and an area selection unit for switching which storage area is to be used, and accessing the storage medium", and lacks in the support within the meaning of PCT Article 6.

Moreover, claims 1 and 16 describes "switching of the operation of the recording medium" but what is disclosed within the meaning of PCT Article 5 is "switching of the operation of the area selection unit in the recording medium" and lacks in the support within the meaning of PCT Article 6.

Claims 9 includes the phrase "the state of the plurality of switching units" but claims 1 and 8 which claim 9 refers to do not have the configuration indicating "the plurality of switching units". What is disclosed in claim 8 is "a plurality of switching states" and claim 9 lacks in clarity within the meaning of PCT Article 6.

Moreover, if claim 9 is an invention supported by the configuration shown in Fig. 6B, the configuration of claim 9 does not refer to claim 8 but should refer to claim 6 which explicitly disclosing a plurality of switching units. By the same reason, claim 23 should refer to claim 21.

Claim 21 describes "the adapter" and refers to claim 16. However, claim 16 does not contain such a configuration. Claim 21 is considered to refer to claim 20 containing the configuration of "the adapter".

Claim 25 has the phrase "the report judgment step" and refers to claim 23. By the same reason, claim 25 should refer to claim 24 containing the "report judgment step".

Accordingly, claims 9, 21, 23, 25 lack in clarity within the meaning of PCT Article 6.

Because of the reasons given above, the search has been performed on the range disclosed by and supported by the Description, i.e., the recording medium access device and the recording medium access method specifically described in the Description.